

Sustainable Forest Management Indicators



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**Case Study: The Great Lakes Forest Alliance Criteria and Indicator Project:
Biological Integrity**

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance

- Governor's Charter in 1987
 - Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin
- Forum
- Emerging Issues
- Regional Significance
- Using Science and Experience
- Affect Policy and Practice
- Public and Private Forest Lands
- Open and transparent process
- Among people of integrity
- Diverse forest perspectives

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance was formed in 1987 by a Charter of the Governors of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, joined by Ontario in 1997 to be a forum on emerging issues of regional significance using science and experience to affect policy and practice. Though restoration of the forest resource in this part of North America was well on its way by the 1930's, many have challenged forest management practices.

Have improvements been made? Absolutely. Are there areas for continued enhancement? Certainly, and to that end the Alliance was initiated to be one vehicle for deliberation, a process which we have honed to be open and transparent, science based, policy and practice driven. The expectation is that these fora will lead to policy and practice decisions within state/provincial, business and private landowner forest management.

Great Lakes Board of Trustees

- Governor/Premier's Appointee
- Chief/State Forester
- Four Additional Delegates per Jurisdiction
 - Academia/Research
 - Forest Products/Tourism Industry
 - Woodland Owners
 - Conservation groups
 - Citizens



To accomplish that goal, our Board of Trustees includes the following leaders from each of the four jurisdictions:

* Chief or State Foresters;

* Governor or Premier appointee;

* Four delegates representing the academic and research communities, business, government, private landowners and the citizenry. In addition, representatives from the United States and Canadian Forest Services participate. My background and experience is in the field of education and collaborative partnerships. It is my role as Executive Director to help facilitate the discussions among these forest resource experts.



Indicator Development

- Regional Forest Resources Assessment
 - Universities, Research Centers
- Interdependence of Ecological, Economic, Social
- Add insight to other processes
- Broad development and prioritization at Wingspread

I. Criteria and Indicators

In 1994, after facilitating the completion of a Regional Forest Resource Assessment among the academic and research facility community in the Great Lakes, our trustees were challenged to demonstrate their integrity to the interdependence of environment, economics and civil society. This quickly evolved to the development of sustainable forest management criteria and indicators unique to the forest types of the Upper Great Lakes to verify that commitment. I'll briefly share our indicator development, the issues raised and the application of the indicators to policy and practice.

We are one of many forest resource organizations which have created indicators, including the global Forest Stewardship Council, the Montreal Process Sustainable Forestry Criteria and Indicators among nations with temperate forests, the National Association of State Foresters, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of American Forest and Paper Association, the Canadian Standards Association, and the environmental management component of the International Standards Organization. We focused on indicators that were unique to the forest type of our region with an intent to add insight to the other processes being conducted.

The Alliance solicited help from a range of practitioners, policy-makers and technical experts from business, government, the research and academic community and concerned citizens and received funding from the USDA Forest Service, the Departments and Ministries of Natural Resources in each state and the province, and the Johnson Foundation who hosted our final deliberations at their Wingspread Conference Center. Thirty-three indicators, eleven each in ecological, economic and social pillars were developed, appropriate to scales of private woodlot owner, forest management unit and regional significance.



































Thank You!



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